

Welcome to the Legislative Update for January 17, 2013

This e-mail is provided as a courtesy of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging. The purpose of this service is to keep Arizona's seniors and advocates for aging services informed about bills and actions taking place at the Arizona State Legislature and to highlight Congressional bills or happenings affecting older Americans. The information is intended to help you shape your own opinion about an issue and to give you the necessary resources and contacts so that you can ensure your perspective and voice are heard. The **Legislative Update** is non-partisan in nature. Thank you for your interest!

The **51st Arizona State Legislature** opened on Monday, January 14, 2013.

The list of Representatives and Senators, Standing Committees and their members can be found on the Arizona State Legislature website at the following links.

[Members](#) of the House

[Members](#) of the Senate

[Standing Committees](#) page

(Be sure to click on the committees to view the members as well as any posted meeting agendas for that committee.)

All committee agendas (House, Senate, Joint Legislative Budget Committee or JLBC) are posted at this [link](#).

If you are new to the Arizona State Legislature's website, be sure to see the Frequently Asked Questions or FAQs [page](#).

State of the State Remarks

On Monday, the Governor gave her State of the State speech. A copy is provided [here](#).

Budget information related to her decision to expand Medicaid is linked [here](#) and background information regarding the decision is provided [here](#). The Director of the Governor's Office of Strategic Planning and Budgeting is scheduled for a budget briefing with the media on Friday. Check the website (<http://www.azgovernor.gov/>) for more information as it is posted.

Legislative Deadlines

Arizona State **Senate Session Timelines** is posted at this [link](#).

Today, 1/17, the House seven bill introduction limit began at 5:00 pm. 1/21 is the last day for Senate members to submit bill requests to the Legislative Council; 1/28 is the last day for House members to submit bill requests to the Legislative Council.

Both the Senate and the House are adjourned at this time until Tuesday, January 22, 2013, 1:30 p.m.

Summary of actions

Since the opening of the legislative session, 147 floor actions have been filed. At the end of day four (4), at least 584 bills posted and 22 memorials or resolutions posted. Some of these bills may be of interest to Arizona seniors and will be tracked by the Council and appear on the **Legislative Update** web report page. **Please be advised that the presence of a bill on the Council's tracking list does not represent support or opposition by the Council to that bill.** It **does** mean that the bill topic is something that is likely to be of interest to or have an impact on older Arizonans so the Council is tracking the bill's progress.

FULL LIST:

<http://www.azcapitolreports.com/webreport.cfm?webreport=24960&listid=47124&print=true>

Note: The **FULL LIST** web report above provides you with the current status and upcoming hearing information about the bills being tracked by the Council and is available and updated on an ongoing basis, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. **This list will continue to be edited and/or expanded as we have an opportunity to get through all of the bills. We will continue to edit the list until bills are no longer posted.** Information about bill status, hearing, etc. is a purchased service provided by the **Arizona Capitol Times**.

Fiscal News

From the **Joint Legislative Budget Committee (JLBC)**

The **JLBC Budget Update and Orientation [report](#)** for new legislators and the **JLBC Monthly Fiscal Highlights [December 2012](#)** are posted on the Arizona State Legislature's website.

According to the December 2012 Monthly Fiscal Highlights, "Year-to-date, revenues are 4.0% higher than last year and are \$19.8 million above the budget forecast."

(It is interesting to note that the January 14, 2010 issue of the **Legislative Update** quoted the *JLBC Monthly Fiscal Highlights December 2009* as saying "Year-to-date, revenues are (17.6)% below the prior year, and \$(459.5) million below the budget forecast.")

Share your thoughts! If you have a particular perspective to share with the Governor or your legislators, **you may voice your thoughts at any time** by contacting the:

· **Governor's Office of Constituent Services** at 602-542-4331 or toll-free at 1-800-253-0883 (outside Maricopa County only)

· Or **contacting your legislator from your area**...locate your legislator by going to the **Arizona State Legislature [website](#)** and looking for: *How do I find My Legislators* or by following the instructions provided at both the **Senate** and **House Member** links at the website.

· **District maps** can be found [here](#).

FEDERAL OVERVIEW:

The American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 included the establishment of the Commission on Long-Term Care. A [Fact Sheet](#) outlining tax changes, health provisions and program extensions can be found on the National Association of States United for Aging & Disabilities – **NASUAD**.

H.R.38

Seniors' Tax Simplification Act of 2013

Introduced on 1/3/2013 by Representative John Fleming (LA-4)

H.R.38 directs the Secretary of the Treasury to make available a new federal income tax Form 1040SR (similar to Form 1040EZ) to individuals who have turned 65 as of the close of the taxable year. Allows the form to be used even if income includes

1. Social security benefits,
2. Distribution from qualified retirement plans, annuities or other such deferred payment arrangements,
3. Interest and dividends, or
4. Capital gains and losses.

On 1/3/2013, the bill was referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means

H.R.247

Ensuring the Full Faith and Credit of the United States and Protecting America's Soldiers and Seniors Act

Introduced on 1/14/2013 by Representative David Schweikert (AZ-6)

Intent of the bill is to require that the United States Government prioritize all obligations on the debt held by the public, Social Security benefits and military pay in the event that the debt limit is reached, and for other purposes.

On 1/14/2013, H.R.247 was referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

NOTE: If you want information specific to a bill, go to the Thomas website <http://thomas.loc.gov/> and enter the bill number or title under *Search Bill Summary & Status*.

Share your opinions with your Congressional Members!

If you are interested in sharing your thoughts or concerns, find out how to contact your congressional representatives by visiting:
<http://www.house.gov/> for the **House** or <http://www.senate.gov/> for the **Senate**.

Links to the membership lists are provided below.

[House](#) members

[Senate](#) members

You can contact the White House at this [link](#).

A compilation of contact information is provided at:
<http://www.usa.gov/Contact/Elected.shtml>.

OTHER NEWS

National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease

The latest information can be found [here](#).

From **Kaiser Health News**

['The Matrix' Meets Medicine; Surveillance Swoops Into Health Care](#)

From the **Congressional Budget Office**

How Will Older People's Participation in the Labor Force Be Affected by the Coming Increase in the Full Retirement Age for Social Security

A link to this blog is provided [here](#).

From the **National Center on Senior Transportation - NCST January 2013 eNews**

[Senior Transportation Exchange](#) for professionals with experience/interest in mobility and transportation

Program Success Story

Volunteer Driver Program – [Keoweecares](#)

From **Sloan Center on Aging & Work at Boston College**

7 January 2013 Fact of the Week: *Less Than Half of 65-Year-Olds Are Retired*

A link is provided [here](#).

From <http://www.flu.gov/#>

Flu Season is Here -- Take Action Now webpage of resources

From **National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities NASUAD:**

2012 State of Aging and Disabilities Survey is linked [here](#).

From the **U.S. Social Security Administration**

<http://www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount/>

INFORMATION & RESOURCES:

From the **Arizona Department of Health Services, Bureau of Health Systems Development**

Sliding Fee Schedule Clinic Locations [interactive map](#)

WHAT: 29th Annual Senior Olympic Festival with 30 venues throughout the **City of Tucson, Arizona**

WHEN: January 18-27, 2013

For more information, go to: www.TucsonSeniorGames.org

WHAT: Second Annual Arizona Grandparent Ambassadors Community Outreach & Advocacy Summit

WHEN: Saturday, January 26, 2013, 9 am to 3 pm, Holiday Inn, 777 North Pinal Avenue, Casa Grande, AZ

Online registration by January 22nd at this [link](#).

WHAT: 2nd Annual African-American Conference on Disabilities

WHEN: March 1, 2013, 7:30 am to 4:30 pm, Coast Phoenix Sky Harbor Hotel, 4300 E. Washington, Phoenix, AZ 85034

For more information, go to this [link](#).

WHAT: 25th Annual Arizona Indian Council on Aging Conference
Celebrating 25 Years of the Arizona Indian Council on Aging

WHEN: April 15-18, 2013, Talking Stick Resort, 9800 E. Indian Bend Road, Scottsdale, AZ 85256

More information is provided [here](#).

Note: Call for Workshop Presentations Deadline: January 25, 2013

The **Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council** has a new website. See the latest information at this [link](#).

Just in case you're interested

Back issues of the **Legislative Updates** are linked on the Council website at:
<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/LegUpdates.asp>.

If you would like to submit an **educational** or **public service event** for consideration, be sure to send an email with the description to: gaca@az.gov. Please note: we try to include events of interest to older Arizonans and aging service advocates.

Thank you!

~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging